

A B S T R A C T

The invention concerns a method of managing traffic for a virtual connection of a packet-based communications network, said method consisting in:

transmitting packets from source customer-premises equipment to destination customer-premises equipment;

time-division multiplexing the packets coming from the various source customer-premises equipment;

measuring the data-rate of the multiplexed packets;

temporarily storing the multiplexed packets in a queue;

transmitting the stored packets over the virtual connection;

determining a channel utilization factor related to the rate at which packets are transmitted over the virtual connection towards the destination customer-premises equipment; and

transmitting the channel utilization factor to data-rate management means so as to control the send information rate upstream from the multiplexing;

the channel utilization factor taking into account the length of the queue and the time taken to transmit the factor to the data-rate management means so as to prevent the queue from overflowing.

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